

On December 12th last the Government Statist estimated the probable wheat harvest at 35,853,000 bushels averaging 14.63 bushels per acre. This estimate was based on conditions as existing at the close of November month.

December and January weather conditions were generally most unfavorable for harvesting operations and it was thought highly probable that the expected average yields in the various districts would be considerably decreased.

All the Reports upon which the first estimate was based were this month returned to the Mounted Constables who reported, for such revisions as may have become necessary. With the exception of a few from the West Coast and other parts of the State they have been returned.

They indicate that though many of the crops were knocked about by the storms and reaping was considerably delayed the later crops were benefited and in a great many districts heavier averages were being obtained than were previously expected.

The wheat was reported to be slightly knocked, and may be discolored, but generally the actual production would be quite equal to the original estimate if not better. The fixing of the standard weight per bushel by the Chamber of Commerce for the season at 61½ lbs indicates that the grain is good and equal in weight to the previous year and is heavier than the three earlier seasons.

The Central, Lower and Upper North Divisions are expected to give a higher wheat yield than originally estimated but this is set off to a large extent by probable decreases in the estimate for the Western and the Murray Mallee Divisions. In the latter division takeall is reported to be in many of the crops.

Some exceptionally fine averages are being reaped- up to 50 bushels per acre for wheat and barley.

The Government Statist therefore considers in the light of the January reports that the original estimate of 35,853,000 bushels of wheat is likely to be fully realised.

Statistical Office, ADELAIDE.

24th January, 1924.

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

*To Shepherd who did not give instructions to give same to Row*